Impact of terrorism on tourism in Karnataka

593. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact on tourist traffic to India in the wake of the terrorist strikes in United States;

(b) whether it is a fact that tourism has suffered heavily in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the tourism industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) As per provisional data for tourist arrivals to India, there is a decline of 10 per cent in the tourist traffic in September, 2001 and 28.8 per cent in the month of October, 2001 over the corresponding months of the year 2000 in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

(b) In view of above, there is a general decline in tourist traffic to all States including Karnataka.

(c) A Seven-Point Programme to meet the adverse conditions in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, has been drawn up and is being implemented. These seven points are: (i) do not ring alarm bells too often; (ii) Propagate India as a safe and secure destination; (iii) Step-up marketing in the Western and Northern world; (iv) Break new grounds in the East and Sourth, particularly with regard to China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia; (v) Give special boost to domestic tourism, particularly the tourism connected with pilgrimage and use the new facilities and infrastructure created in this regard to serve as a back-bone for international tourism in times to come; (vi) Create conditions in which India attains a very great reputation for ethical trade and business practices; and (vii) Help in initiation of great reform movement in India, a sort of new renaissance which would make India more creative and constructive and bring about a work culture of the highest class and also project India as a unique country which provides opportunities for physical invigoration, mental rejuvenation, culture enrichment and spiritual elevation.